# RPDONEWS

December 2010 / January 2011

### MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL APPOINT JAMES SHEPPARD AS POLICE CHIEF



On each of the documents that lay out his priorities and goals for the Rochester Police Department, newly appointed Police Chief James M. Sheppard includes a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say."

"At the end of the day, that quote is about what truly matters – actions versus words," he explains. "I am asking the members of this department and the people of this community to assess my tenure as your Chief, not by what I say, but by what I do and what we accomplish."

Chief Sheppard rejoins the Rochester Police Department after leaving in 2008 following an impressive 27-year career. He was then named Director of Safety and Security for the Rochester City School District. Earlier this year he returned to the City of Rochester to serve as the Director of the City's Office of Public

integrity which seeks to enhance public confidence in City government by providing a means to address and investigate reports of fraud, corruption, waste and abuse.

"Shep," as he is known by many in the department and the community, joined RPD in January 1981. He was promoted to Sergeant in January 1988, to Lieutenant in March 1997, to Captain in March 2003 and to Commander in June 2004. He became Deputy Chief of the Operations Bureau in September 2006. His assignments included Highland Section 3rd Platoon, SWAT (ETF), PDS, Tactical, SIS, Clinton Section Net Sector 10, PSS, Patrol Division East, Operations Bureau and Research & Evaluation.

Chief Sheppard holds a BA Degree from Empire State College (State University of New York) in Criminal Justice and Community Service, and is a 1998 graduate of the FBI National Academy. He and his wife June reside in the city and are the parents of three grown children, James, Tamara and Stephanie.

"I think my background with RPD speaks for itself. I have walked these streets as a patrol officer and worked my way up through the ranks. I know the neighborhoods and the people. I know what our officers deal with day in and day out, and I understand the community's concerns and issues," Chief Sheppard said.

Chief Sheppard has announced his priorities for the coming months:

Public Safety: We will work with the community and utilize all of the resources available to us to reduce crime and violence.

**Community Engagement:** We will actively reach out to hear the community's concerns, identify problems and develop workable solutions.

**Morale:** We will establish a foundation of professional values and ethics to build a leadership team. We will demonstrate and demand personal integrity. The emphasis will be on ensuring that our beat cops get the organizational support they need to do their job effectively, to enable them to satisfy the community's expectations for public safety.

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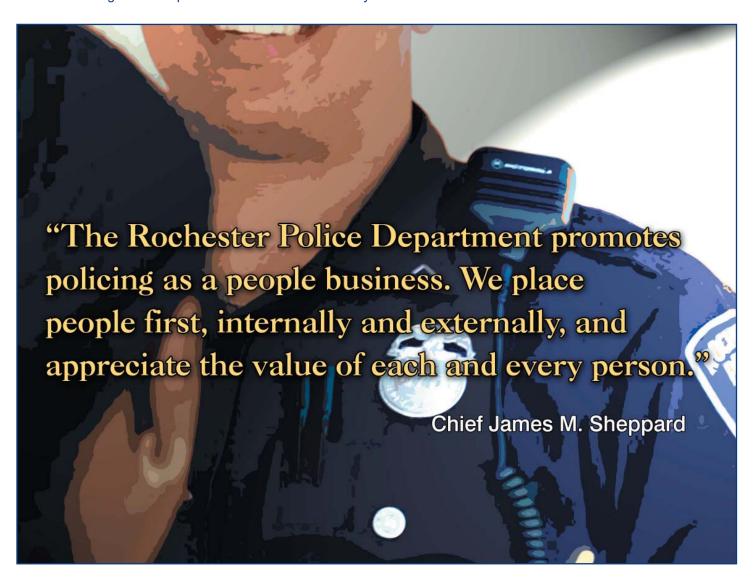


## MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL APPOINT JAMES SHEPPARD AS POLICE CHIEF (CONT'D.)

**Teamwork:** We will employ a collaborative/participative leadership style, communicate clear expectations, provide consequences while also acknowledging successes, and promote communication, coordination and collaboration.

**Leadership Development:** We will model the leadership traits we expect to see in others, and provide training, mentoring and experiential learning opportunities, with an emphasis on developing leaders and succession planning.

Chief Sheppard added, "The Rochester Police Department's drive for excellence starts now. To get there we must commit to working together and supporting each other. Our focus must be on continuous improvement and achieving excellence. We will establish clear lines of communication between command, employees, municipal leaders and community stakeholders that will build relationships founded in trust, and be active in identifying issues and finding solutions. We will provide clear and strong leadership that will instill confidence throughout the department and the entire community."



## **NEWS BRIEFS:**

#### **ETF BRINGS HOME SWAT COMPETITION HONORS**

Congratulations to the Emergency Task Force for competing in their first SWAT competition in Erie County on September 16th. Eight members traveled to Erie County to participate in the Erie County Tactical Task Force SWAT Competition

consisting of five team events and an Ironman Challenge.

Despite this being the first time competing against 12 regional teams who have attended the event for several years, ETF placed 3rd overall, Officer Herb McClellan was a close 2nd in the individual Ironman Challenge and Officer Jeff Schroeder took Top Sniper. Pictured are: (top row, right to left) Officer J. Schroeder, Sgt. R. Montinarelli, Phil VanBethem (Rural Metro Tactical Medic), Lt. J. Graham, Lt. A. Springer, Officer H. McClellan; (bottom row, right to left) Officer B. Sexstone, Sgt. F. Rivera, Officer B. Newpher.



#### ALBERT WEECH RECEIVES MADD/STOP DWI AWARD

Officer Albert Weech was presented with a MADD/STOP DWI Individual Law Officer Award in recognition of his outstanding achievements in deterring drunk/impaired driving. Officer Weech was honored at a luncheon at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany on November 16th, sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Stop-DWI, the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the New York State Police and other prominent associations.

## PISTOL CLUB RAISES \$2000 FOR INJURED OFFICERS

The Rochester Police Pistol Club held its 24th annual benefit pistol match on November 6. There were 77 shooters from 21 different police and military units who shot and raised \$2,000 to assist RPD injured officers Luca Martini and Dan Brochu. 28 Rochester Police officers participated. Lt. Scott Peters earned an A Class Gold Medal; Officer Ed Frantangelo, a B Class Silver Medal, and Officer Cuyler Mooney, a B Class Bronze Medal. The Chief's Trophy Winning Team was Patrol Division East led by Officers Chris Renz, Pat Steiner and Jason and Kevin Leckinger. This was the first east side team victory since 1992 and the first team to post over 1,700 points since the Genesee Section team back in 1999. The match was followed by a prime rib dinner at the Locust Club. RPPC Executive Board members Dan Carlson, Roy Adams, Warren Jones and Allison Gilday thank all who shot and helped out during the match.

## **NEWS BRIEFS (CONT'D.):**

#### PATHSTONE HONORS ERIC MAJEWICZ

Officer Eric Majewicz was recognized for his efforts in the Marketview Heights neighborhood by PathStone, an organization that provides services to farm workers, low-income families and economically depressed communities. A Crime Prevention Officer assigned to the City of Rochester's Northeast Quadrant Neighborhood Service Center, Officer Majewicz received the "Friend of PathStone" award at the group's annual corporate awards luncheon on October 14th at the Rochester Plaza Hotel. He was honored for advocating on behalf of the Marketview Heights Neighborhood Association to have cameras installed in the neighborhood; identifying and addressing gangs and drug locations; volunteering his own time at Marketview community events and "installing hope and confidence in the residents during the community meetings," according to PathStone.

#### EAST DIVISION TAKES WIN IN 2010 CHAMPIONSHIP

For the third year in a row, the East Division team defeated West Division, 20-14 in a hard-fought game Nov. 6 at Aquinas High School field. Proceeds from the events benefitted the Badge of Honor Association and Juvenile Diabetes. The East Division team consisted of Matt Bennetti, Alex Jimenez, Bryant Johnson, William Booker, Nick Romeo, Brad Pike, Tim Thomas, Brian Monfort, Dave Smith, Ryan Parker and Jason Rudolph. West Division team players included Mitch Stewart, Joe Briganti, Kevin Radke, Joe Ferrigno, James Laruez, Jordan Bracey, Lucas Krull, Ted Serinis, Jason Hess and Aaron Eyrich. Blue Liners General Manager Justin Collins recognized several people who helped make the event such a great success: Matt Bennetti, General Event Coordinator; Alex Jimmenz, Eastside Team Coordinator; Mitch Stewart, Westside Team Coordinator; William Booker, Officials/Referee Coordinator; Steve Scott, Announcer; Michael Ciulla, Co Announcer/ Scoreboard Operator; Bill Franchuk's wife, Tamara, National Anthem; Otto Harnischfeger, Cathy Lucci and Deputy Chief Sam Farina, Concessions; Eliud Rodriguez Poster & Photographs, and Bob Cortese, Donations. Next year's game will return to Sunday afternoon and will be the first ever flag football game.

### 3RD ANNUAL FROSTY PAWS WINTER CARNIVAL SET

Rochester Animal Society will hold its 3rd Annual Frosty Paws Winter Carnival from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on January 29, 2011 at ARTISANworks, located at 565 Blossom Rd., Suite L. Presented by Invisible Fence Brand, in conjunction with Verona Street Animal Society, the event will feature an evening of mystical, magical carnival entertainment, music and great food and wine. In support of Rochester's furry friends, there will be a silent and live auction, tarot card readings, caricature art and animal psychic readings – all in the magnificent artistic surroundings of ARTISANworks. Tickets are on sale now online at www.vsas.org: \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door per person, \$400 for groups of ten, \$350 for groups of eight. For more information, call 727-2533.

## **NEWS BRIEFS (CONT'D.):**

#### RPD OFFICERS DELIVER BABY

Officers Bryant Johnson and Joseph Vanderstyne weren't sure what to expect when they stopped to assist a woman frantically waving them down while they were on patrol December 1. When they stopped to assist Vanessa Williams, they discovered that she had been driving her sister Jaconda, who was in labor, to the hospital when they realized that they wouldn't make it in time. The two officers were able to deliver the baby in the back seat of the vehicle and safely seal the umbilical cord. The officers were honored for their actions at the City of Rochester Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 3rd.

#### BADGE OF HONOR ASSOCIATION PLANS 2011 POLICEMAN'S BALL

Plans are being finalized for the 4th annual Policeman's Ball by the Badge of Honor Association (BOHA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in Western New York. Founded in 2007, BOHA is comprised of members of law enforcement agencies throughout Western New York who raise funds for police survivors. BOHA promotes camaraderie and strong ties between law enforcement and the communities they serve. The Badge of Honor Association's first goal was to dedicate commemorative plaques to honor Rochester Police Officers who were killed in the line of duty. In 2008, BOHA revived the tradition of the policeman's ball. The upcoming black tie fundraiser, set for February 5th, 2011, will benefit the Rochester YMCA "Invest In Youth" Program.

### OFFICER RECOGNITION

The following letter was recently received by RPD.

My name is James Larking. I am a student at Morrisville State College in Morrisville, NY. My father owns a small construction company that does much work in the Rochester area. So when I say that he owns a small construction company, I mean that I am normally very busy and stressed out doing jobs for him. On Friday, September 24th, I was forced to drive to Rochester and work all night long. Nothing new in that aspect. But what made this weekend and this job, specifically, enjoyable was the friendly personality of several of Rochester's finest. My day started out very miserable; equipment not working, job not ready, workers not showing up – pretty standard stuff. It wasn't 'til lunch time that my spirits were raised by a couple of police officers who, like me, were just out to get a bite to eat on a nice day. These officers, along with their high spirits and fun attitudes, made my day. I would just like to inform you that the men and women that work for your Police Department are top notch officers and great people. They single-handedly made my day.

Sincerely, James R. Larking , Oswego, NY



## **NEWS BRIEFS (CONT'D.):**

### DO THE RIGHT THING SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER WINNERS RECOGNIZED

"Do the Right Thing" winners were introduced at the October/November 2010 ceremony held October 7th. We congratulate Stephanie Wierzba, 12th Grade, awarded for civic responsibility & volunteerism (Rush Henrietta School District); Bushara, 9th Grader, awarded for quick thinking, medical assistance (Jefferson High School); Jonee Mathews, 7th Grade, awarded for assisted with student chocking (Urban Choice Charter School); sisters Jessica & Linda Carey, 7th and 8th Grade, awarded for compassion & civic responsibility (School Without Walls); Jamir Davis, 3rd Grade, awarded for calling 911, observed gang involve fight (School No. 12); Hailey Ballone,1st Grade, awarded for donating to Locks of Love & assisting Grandmother with PAC-TAC (N. Winton



Rd. Area) (Jefferson Rd. Elementary); sisters Anija & Brianna Rivera, 12th Grade, awarded compassion & Volunteerism (West Irondequoit High School); Kenneth Brach, 7th Grade, awarded for his quick actions, saving the life of a 7-year-old drowning (Dake Middle School).

## PIRATE TOY FUND DONATIONS SOUGHT

The Pirate Toy Fund is a program that brings smiles to children at Christmas time and throughout the year. Toys are donated to a variety of agencies throughout the Rochester area, including families served by RPD's Victim Assistance Unit and Do the Right Thing. Collection boxes will be located in the PSB, East, West and Special Operations Divisions. Just drop off your unwrapped toy by December 16. Suggested items include:

- For Infants music boxes, rattles/teethers, plastic picture books, soft blocks and balls, music lullaby cassette tapes, blankets/quilts or sippy cups/bottles.
- For toddlers/school age children books, toys, puzzles, games, coloring/activity books, drawing boards, crayons/markers/colored pencils, Matchbox cars, Barbie dolls & clothes-especially ethnic varieties, Lego/Duplo/building sets, stuffed toys, Play-Doh sets.
- For teens disposable cameras, handheld video games, Walkmans, craft kits, books, sports cards, puzzles, watches, snap together model kits, card games.

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## **NEWS BRIEFS (CONT'D.):**

## A SCARY GOOD TIME!

The Do The Right Thing Program of the Rochester Police Department hosted a Halloween celebration on Saturday, October 30th in the PSB Atrium. Children received a treat-filled Halloween trick 'n treat bag with safety reminders. There were "scary critters" (aka, snakes, spiders and lizards) provided by the Wildlife Education Coalition; the RPD Safe Child ID program offered free ID cards for children, and the Rochester Fire Department, Rural Metro Medical Services and the City of Rochester's Recreation on the Move workers shared safety tips, educational materials and fun activities. DTRT Halloween bags were also supplied to the East and West Patrol Divisions to hand out to children in their areas.











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### PDS CONDUCTS 19TH CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

After spending 10 weeks participating in the RPD's Citizen's Police Academy, Wanda Martinez summed up her experience by saying, "I got to see a huge picture – the big screen picture – of how much our police do in the community every day."

That is the goal of the Citizen's Police Academy -- creating a better understanding of policing and promoting closer relationships between police and citizens. Kicked off in 1992, the Academy is a 10-week program that offers comprehensive instruction highlighting a different area of the police department each week. Classes are held at the Public Safety Training Facility on Scottsville Rd.

Participants get a broad-based look at the policies, procedures and operations of the Rochester Police Department. At its conclusion, attendees are more familiar with law enforcement in city neighborhoods and with the training provided to police recruits. Attendees always have opportunities to offer comments and suggestions on police procedures and the recruit academy curriculum.



Graduation of the 19th Citizen's Police Academy class was held on Nov. 15 and featured special team demos. One of the participants gets to try on equipment used by the RPD Tactical Unit's Bomb Squad.

The Citizen's Police Academy instructors include experienced trainers and operational personnel from several RPD units. In addition to classroom presentations, CPA participants have the opportunity to go on ride-alongs with patrol officers. CPAs are organized and conducted by the RPD's Professional Development Section. A diverse group of 20 citizens participated in the recent session which met weekly from Sept. 13 through Nov. 8. Wanda and her husband William Martinez attended, along with three other neighbors from their street in the city.

"I heard about the Citizen's Police Academy because I'm a member of my neighborhood PAC-TAC and the block club," Wanda says. "I was really interested in participating because I want to help keep my neighborhood safe. I have grandchildren who live in the area and I want to know they're safe when they play outside."

William says he really didn't know what to expect when he attended the first class, "but I learned that these officers do one heck of a job. If I was a lot younger, I would want to become a police officer."

Asked what she like best about the program, Wanda says, "Everything!" She found the Live Fire and PRISim exercise to be one of the most educational sessions. "I

learned that it takes a lot of courage and good instincts to be an officer. I'm very thankful I got a chance to participate. For a little bit, I got to step into their shoes and feel what it's like to go out there every day and put their lives on the line."

William agrees. "The scenerios really gave me a sense of an officer's experiences and how they are trained to approach and solve problems. They have to react quickly and make the right decision."

#### AFSCME UNION STEWART JEANNE MARCIANO TO RETIRE

After serving 34 years with the Rochester Police Department, Senior Finance Clerk and AFSCME union steward Jeanne Marciano is retiring. Her last day will be January 28, 2011.



Jeanne's association with RPD began when she was hired to work with "Officer Friendly" as a member of the Teens on Patrol (TOP) program. After graduation, she got married and stayed home to raise her son but continued to work as a member of PAC-TAC patrolling the city's west side. When an officer suggested she take the Prisoner Escort Attendant civil service exam, Jeanne scored in the top three and was employed in the Court Liaison Office, where she escorted female prisoners back and forth from jail to court, provided courtroom security and helped maintain court records.

"I worked in this capacity until budget cuts resulted in the court transport responsibility being transferred to the County," Jeanne said. "While some employees were kept on, I was one of

those who weren't, and that's where I had my first contact with my union – AFSCME – which stepped in to help keep me employed."

The union was successful in having Jeanne placed at HQ for a short time doing data entry, and then to the City Water Bureau. There, she covered the office and set up appointments with clients to have their meters read. "I did a short stint with the Water Technician Trainees where I actually tapped a water main, got in the hole and drilled, and learned how to locate water lines before I was moved into a meter reader job."

When she finally got word that she had been hired as a data entry clerk in RPD's Information Systems department, the timing couldn't have been better. "I was supposed to read a water meter in the crawl space of an old restaurant downtown. I thanked God I would be working at RPD instead because I was petrified to crawl into that space!" She was later offered a job in Budget where she found the work to be challenging but rewarding.

In 2004 when she was asked by AFSCME President Anthony Gingello to serve as union steward for PSB and patrol section civilian staff, Jeanne says, "I had no idea what I was getting into, but I am forever mindful that AFSCME kept me employed at a time when I could have easily been left out on my own, so I could not turn him down. I'm very proud to be a member of AFSCME and was honored to work alongside AFSCME Vice President Ange Muratore. This position has taught me many lessons and one of them is to be grateful that I have been blessed to have been employed this long with so many wonderful benefits and the opportunity to work with so many hard workers."

"I am at peace with my decision to retire at this time," Jeanne says, "and I'm looking forward to starting the next chapter in my life. I will miss RPD but I know new experiences await me." Her immediate plans include spending more time visiting her son, Major Nicholas A. Marciano, USMC. We wish Jeanne all the best on her retirement.

#### REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROES

Thirteen officers have died in the line of duty over the 193-year-history of the Rochester Police Department. In upcoming issues of the RPD News, we will honor their memory by sharing their stories with members of our department. Our thanks to Capt. Johnston for researching and providing the information.

## PATROLMAN WILLIAM O'BRIEN

Appointed May 13, 1914
Died May 2, 1919
Badge #344



On Friday May 2, 1919 at 9:00 p.m., Motorcycle Patrolman William O'Brien was shot and killed by a burglar, Elmer Hyatt, at the residence of Herbert Levett, 290 Garson Ave.

Officer O'Brien was working at the University Avenue Precinct when the call for a burglary in progress came in by telephone. Officer O'Brien raced his motorcycle to the scene, knowing that there had been a series of burglaries in that area.

As Officer O'Brien arrived, Hyatt tried to escape using the rear door of the house. Officer O'Brien blocked Hyatt's escape and ordered him to surrender. His order was met with a single gunshot to the heart which killed him almost instantly but not before he returned fire and injured the suspect.

Hyatt then ran back into the house and, unable to open the front door, dove through a window to make his escape.

Hyatt was observed by Special Officer Lindner who was in the area working plainclothes due to the number of burglaries. The sounds of the shots brought Officer Lindner to the scene in time to see the suspect's flight. After giving chase on foot, Officer Lindner was able to bring the suspect into custody without further injury. Hyatt later admitted to nine burglaries on the eastside. Hyatt was later electrocuted for this murder.

Officer O'Brien was appointed to the police department on May 13, 1914 while still a member of the Rochester Fire Department. O'Brien had been known as one of the best football players in Rochester and was a member of the "Jefferson" team for a number of years. Friends and acquaintances alike stated that Bill was the idol of football fans of the 19th Ward for five years.